

POLI 11D: Week Seven Section

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Suggestions for Writing the Essay

- Break down the questions.
- Collect and organize information.
- Develop a thesis.
- Outline.

Suggestions for Writing the Essay (cont.)

- Once you have your info collected and organized and a thesis to tie it all together, you'll need to plan out the flow of your essay. You should have several points you want to make connected to your thesis and you should have supporting information to bring to bear on each.
- Structure the essay to begin with a lead paragraph that outlines the thesis and the purpose of your essay and the claim you want to make.
- Conclude with a short paragraph that summarizes your main point and perhaps raises additional questions that can,Äôt answer but arise out of your essay.

In summary...

Things to remember

- Include a thesis statement in your introduction paragraph.
- Make sure you address every part of the prompt.
- Aim for 2000 or more words.
- Cite your sources and include bibliography.
- Do not cite Wikipedia or any other unreliable web source.
- Do not include lengthy quotations.

Other resources

1. Teaching + Learning commons:
<https://commons.ucsd.edu/>
2. Writing resources:
<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/>
3. Handout specifically for writing in Political Science, which may be helpful: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/political-science/>

Russian Politics

Stalinist Model

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- Agriculture collectivization, rapid industrialization
 - Setting high goals and emphasizing heavy industry at the expense of consumer goods and agriculture

Stalinist Model

- Social change: change in status, hierarchy- status of peasant/farmer theoretically went up while status of old elites and intellectuals went down
- Change in incomes: collapse of inequality, increase of equalization of incomes
- Manual vs mental work \Rightarrow productive vs non-productive in USSR
- Highly skilled manual laborers were better off than white collar workers in USSR

Stalinist Model

More social changes:

- Gender equality: improving the status and education of women
- Ethnic equality (in theory): Marx said ethnicity was byproduct of elite manipulation
- Downplay religion: get people away from religious or ethnic id, replace with secular communism
- Putting collective over individual interests
- Ideal men and women in USSR: hard worker, active communist, inform on anti-socialists, volunteer in free time instead of leisure
- Media censorship and government control of media

Stalin dies, March 1953



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1956: 20th Congress - Khrushchev's "secret" speech

- Given to party, unpublicized, but leaked to US gov. Open denunciation of Stalin's crimes, accused Stalin of building cult of personality

Brezhnev Doctrine, 1968

"When forces that are hostile to socialism try to turn the development of some socialist country towards capitalism, it becomes not only a problem of the country concerned, but a common problem and concern of all socialist countries" Brezhnev, in a speech at the Fifth Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party on November 13, 1968



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- View that USSR had right and duty to intervene to save socialism wherever it was threatened

Replacing Brezhnev Doctrine

- Gorbachev comes to power in 1985
- Gorbachev not willing to send in troops to repress reform attempts in dissenting countries "Sinatra doctrine", in other words, do it your way
- Glasnost ("openness"): political aspects of changes, allowing more open debate, Sinatra doctrine, autonomous groups
- Perestroika: "restructuring" of inefficient economy

End of Communism, 1989



End of Communism, 1989

- 1989 wouldn't have happened (likely) without Gorbachev policies of glasnost, perestroika and Sinatra doctrine
- Nobody foresaw the end of communism. Surprise all around
- Many missteps in transition away from communism
- Goals, generally: democracy, the market, back to Europe

End of Communism, 1989

- Political: needed legal, constitutional change to reflect multi-party system. Process is not easy.
- Economical: Needed to legalize private ownership, create regulation bodies and law for financial markets
- Hardest: dealing with communist legacy. What to do with assets of the communist party (industries, properties, dues)?

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- Hardest: dealing with communist legacy. What to do with assets of the communist party (industries, properties, dues)?
- Let party exist or be banned? How to treat old leaders?
- Legacy in values of citizens - hard to create democratic values
- Communist leaders had developed corruption, self-enrichment, collusion with organized crime

Impact on Society

1. Distrust of political parties, disaffection with politics
2. Decline of willingness to be cooperative
3. Lack of interpersonal trust leading to less community-wide activity
4. Bureaucratic reform- can't replace everyone, have to train people and encourage them to be accountable, try to recruit new people who have merit

Many issues of transition

- How to deal with poverty, unemployment, environmental fallout
- Psychological aspect: Going from “what am I allowed to do?” to “what am I able to do?” (more personal responsibility)
- Democracy and new political parties create disorder
- Disorder creates anxiety, fosters desire for a strong leader and order
- Issues: extreme nationalism, anti-tolerance (antisemitism, anti-Roma, homophobia, sometimes anti-female), inequality now legitimated and very visible, disappearance of rent controls and many subsidies

Privatization and Restitution

- Auctions: could be bought by anyone
- Employee buyouts: mostly for small enterprises
- Coupon/voucher: people bought cheap vouchers and traded them for shares in privatizing companies
- Difficult to determine what companies are really worth
- Spontaneous privatization: party officials took enterprises, state leaders of enterprises took them over
- Tunneling: all valuable assets stripped and taken to new company, leaving behind bankrupt shell in state ownership
- Restitution: giving back to original owners. But how to determine rightful ownership?

Other issues

- Backlash against women, especially in the workplace given high unemployment and poverty post-communism
- Many women drop out of labor force
- Rise in alcoholism, homelessness. End of the “nanny state”
- Next: Illiberal democracy under Yeltsin; Authoritarianism under Putin
- Illiberal democracy and democratic decorations- elections exist but playing field is unequal